

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, are respectfully requested in light of the remarks which follow.

As set forth in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 6, 9 and 10 stand withdrawn.

Priority

The office has stated that a certified copy of the priority document (SE 9704919-1) is required further to 35 U.S.C. 119(b). Applicants note, that a certified copy of the Swedish priority application was filed in parent application No. 09/607,925 on October 11, 2000 (now abandoned). Therefore, Applicants are not required to file a certified copy of the priority application in the present application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Whitcombe et al. (1995 JACS 117:7105-7111) ("Whitcombe").

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Applicants submit that Whitcombe fails to recite each and every element of the presently claimed invention.

Whitcombe is directed to Molecular Imprinted Polymers (MIPs) which have been tested for their binding specificity. To this end, Applicants refer to Figure 2(d) in Whitcombe at page 7108. Whitcombe fails to disclose the use of a library of substances (*i.e.*, a mixture of several different substances) together with the molecular imprinted material.

Applicants submit that a combinatorial library, as claimed in the present invention, is not the same as a one or even a group of a few compounds. Applicants note that combinatorial libraries are large collections of molecules usually for screening purposes. Applicants provide herewith a definition by Richard Twyman posted on the Human Genome Website at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

(genome.wellcome.ac.uk), stating that: "[C]ombinatorial libraries *are large collections of chemical compounds* that are screened to identify potential new drugs...Essentially, the process involves taking a small number of starting compounds and reacting these with a larger number of reagents. For example, with 30 starting compounds and 50 reagents, 1000 products can be generated. These products can be reacted with a further collection of 50 reagents. The result would be 50000 second generation products, all based on the 20 starting compounds which would be known as 'skeletons'".

Applicants further enclose an article written by Mosbach, ("Screening of Combinatorial Steroid Library using Molecularly Imprinted Polymers", *Anal. Commun.* 1998, 35, 9-11). This article, which provides data relating to an experiment set forth in the present application, discloses the use of a continuous flow column comprising a molecularly imprinted material for one specific steroid as used for screening a combinatorial steroid library. The experiment showed impressive selectivity.

Thus, as Whitcombe does not disclose combinatorial libraries as claimed herein, and does not disclose each and every element of the present invention, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Bystrom et al. (1993 JACS 115:2081-2083) ("Bystrom"). Applicants submit that Bystrom does not recite each element of the present invention. Bystrom is directed to normal MIPs which have been tested for their binding specificity on one or a few substances. Bystrom fails to disclose the use of a library of substances together with the molecular imprinted material.

As above, Applicants submit that a combinatorial library, as claimed in the present invention, is not the same as one or even a few compounds. Applicants note that combinatorial libraries are large collections of chemical molecules that may be screened to identify potential new drugs. Thus, as Bystrom does not disclose combinatorial libraries, and does not disclose each and every element of the present invention, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by Mosbach et al. (US Patent 6,255,461) ("Mosbach").

As above, Mosbach relates to normal Molecular Imprinted Polymers, MIPs, which have been tested for their binding specificity on one substance, or just a few substances. A mixture of several different substances, *i.e.*, a library of substances, has not been disclosed, as used together with the molecular imprinted material.

As Mosbach does not disclose each and every element of the present invention, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all rejections have been overcome by the above amendments. Thus, Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

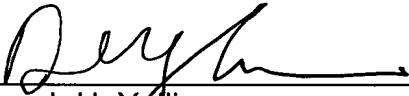
In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (703) 836-6620 so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By: _____


Deborah H. Yellin
Registration No. 45,904

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620